



CLINICAL FACULTY

William P. Quigley
Director

Ramona Fernandez
Associate Director

Cheryl P. Buchert
Assistant Clinical Professor

Hiroko Kusuda
Staff Attorney

Judson Mitchell
Staff Attorney

Luz M. Molina
Clinical Professor

D. Majeeda Sneed
Associate Clinical Professor

Steven Singer
Assistant Clinical Professor

Administrative Assistant

Leila Bonilla

CLINICAL STUDENTS

Mary Barket

Paula Bruner

Rebecca deMahy

Melissa Denard

Heather Ford

Tiffany Garraton

Jeff B. Goldman

Sonia Gupta

Lisa Kane-Arnolds

Matthew Joseph

Katherine Knorr

Tina Motwani

Byrne Sherwood

Erica Smith

Taciana Williams

Clinic in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

By William P. Quigley

When Loyola University New Orleans School of Law relocated to the campus of the University of Houston Law Center to finish the fall semester, we had to rebuild our clinic on a new model. Discovering that over 100,000 people from New Orleans were relocated (temporarily we hope) to Houston, we switched from a litigation driven clinic (criminal, family, immigration, homeless, federal civil) to a Katrina Legal Advice Clinic. We partnered with U of H, Lone Star Legal Aid and the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Our themes for this semester have been flexibility, creativity, solidarity, and patience. We have been challenged in each of these themes because all of our students and faculty are also evacuees - every person has lost something precious. The stress of moving over 300 miles away, setting up a new home for eleven weeks,

and continuing law school takes an enormous toll on studying, energy, marriages, jobs, families and on each person's spirit.

Our students have been going to the Greater Houston



Professor William P. Quigley

Disaster Recovery Center (GHDRC) in shifts five to six days a week. The GHDRC has over 100 agencies inside an old Wal-Mart building and is visited by thousands of people every day.

At this point, our students have visited with over a thousand people - face to face in the GHDRC or in phone interviews at one of the hotline

centers. The interviews are very personal and we have all had the privilege of hearing the most heart-rending stories of lives destroyed and courageous efforts to rebuild. Oftentimes, our neighbors—the clients cry; sometimes we cry too.

We want to give our students plenty of chances to go to court, but there are many people still in need of someone who can research and write a letter for them. We will continue to try to see what our community and neighbors need. This will likely be a part of what we do for a long time to come.

We are leaving Houston December 17 to return to New Orleans for good. We will carry the concerns of our clients and neighbors for the rest of our lives. Their concerns and the concerns of our severely damaged community, have changed us and our clinic. ■

“Do not let spacious plans for a new world divert your energies from saving what is left of the old” — Winston Churchill

For I Was A Stranger and You Took Me In

By Cheryl Buchert and Ramona Fernandez



University of Houston Law Center Clinic

Four weeks after evacuating from New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina, we moved to Houston to begin law school classes. This was made possible due to the extraordinary efforts of Dean Brian Bromberger, his dedicated staff and the generosity of the University of Houston (U of H) Law Center. The U of H law clinic provided our clinical faculty, staff, and students with resources of office space, conference rooms, equipment, supplies, and support personnel for our new home. The law clinic's hospitality further extended to social invitations, educational opportunities, and the exchange of pedagogical methods. We dedicate the first issue of our clinic newsletter to the University of Houston Law Center Clinical Legal Education Program.

We revamped our clinical program to become the "Houston Katrina Legal Advice Clinic". Our clinic provided services to Katrina victims in Houston in the areas of: landlord/tenant, creditors/bankruptcy, public benefits, FEMA/Red Cross services, health, insurance (flood/homeowners), immigration, criminal, family law, and other issues.

Our students participated in and our faculty presented at the U of H "Know Your Legal Rights" campus seminar. FEMA issued photo/identification "FEMA Affiliate" badges to our clinical faculty and students. Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (HVLP) provided us "Hurricane Katrina Legal Advice Team Member" tee-shirts and badges. Our faculty and students educated themselves in Katrina related legal and consumer issues through research and classes.

Throughout the semester, we interviewed and discussed the legal problems of New Orleans evacuees face to face at the Greater Houston Disaster Relief Center (GHDR) and over the telephone at the U of H, Lone Star Legal Aid, and HVLP call centers. Students and faculty took active roles in attending Katrina-rebuilding neighborhood

meetings and rallies, assisting in anti-eviction actions, compiling resource material, and preparing affidavits, handouts, and letters. Students prepared a handout with helpful telephone numbers of Texas and Louisiana referral services for the evacuees. Students compiled and divided the mass legal research into Katrina Advice Clinic binders by issue. The landlord/tenant/voucher problems were so numerous that Loyola's resident Tulane visiting clinic student, Mary Barket, prepared a handout to help tenants by advising Houston landlords on the voucher issue. Students observed court hearings in several Houston Courts. Our clinical faculty presented "The Role of the Loyola Law Clinic in Houston" at a FEMA employee training conference.

By the close of the semester, some students and faculty were on a first name basis with FEMA, Houston Housing Authority, and GHDR personnel. The students improved their interviewing and research skills, felt confident in advising the evacuees, and now look forward to going home to our "New Orleans Katrina Legal Advice Clinic" in January 2006. We will miss our new Houston friends at the U of H Law Clinic. ■

Loyola Law Clinic: Spotlighting the Storm's Effect on the Poor

By Judson Mitchell

In New Orleans, Loyola Law Clinic has been on the front lines fighting for equal justice for the city's storm evacuees. Bill Quigley and Judson Mitchell filed a successful lawsuit to have eviction proceedings moved from First City Court's temporary facility in Gonzales back to New Orleans.

Quigley and Mitchell also joined with the Advancement Project, a Washington, D.C. based advocacy group, in a suit challenging the constitutionality of the practice of "tacking" eviction notices on apartments. They argued tacking does not provide sufficient notice to evacuees who are out of state and have no chance to see the notice. The suit further



Pictured: Rebecca deMahy, Byrne Sherwood, Heather Ford, Judson Mitchell, Jeff Goldman, Tacia Williams, Tina Motwani, Katherine Knorr, Tiffany Garraton, Erica Smith, Paula Bruner, Mary Barket, Lisa Kane-Arnolds and Matt Joseph

sought to compel the Department of Homeland Security to provide current addresses of evacuees so that they can receive adequate notice of the eviction

hearings.

Loyola Law Clinic has been heavily involved with Common Ground, the only group which is providing aid to residents of the Lower Ninth Ward. Among other activities with this group, the Clinic is an active participant in its legal outreach clinics.

The Law Clinic has had a high profile in both traditional and electronic media. Quigley and Mitchell have been featured in radio and television interviews spotlighting the storm's effect on the poor. The clinic has also established a website, www.justiceforneworleans.org, which provides up-to-the-minute information

LIFE AT THE GREATER HOUSTON DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER

As a student of Loyola University Law Clinic, I work in the volunteer services Legal Aid area. By the time clients come to us after attempting to accomplish anything at the GHDR, they are desperate and reduced to crying. I have seen people that are not even able to voice their problem because of tears of betrayal, frustration, and severe loss.

By Paula Bruner



Heather Ford and Jeff Goldman interview evacuees at the GHDR

Every evacuee has their own unique story about their experiences during Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately for many, the worst experiences occurred after Katrina had long since past. From inconsistencies in regulations to housing issues, evacuees continue to fight for their survival even on dry land.

By Rebecca deMahy



Terry Osborn from Greater Houston Housing Authority, Cheryl Buchert and Ramona Fernandez at the GHDR

The people we see now are the ones we saw on television right after the storm. They were picked off of roofs by helicopters, they were stranded on bridges for days, and they were bused to undisclosed locations, separated from their families and dumped into shelters. Now they are in Houston, and they are being promised vouchers to move into apartments; they are promised money to buy food and clothes; they are told that the government will help them rebuild their lives. When the evacuees go to FEMA to ask questions about the aid they have never received, they get ten different answers. The local director says one thing while the federal director does another.

By Lisa Kane-Arnolds



Sonia Gupta and Heather Ford at the GHDR

We have all heard or read about the devastation in New Orleans and the suffering that has resulted to those who live there. But when you hear or read about it in the news, you can turn off the television or put away the paper and forget about it. It is a much different experience to hear the stories of suffering directly from the people who have experienced the worst. Students of Loyola Law Clinic have had many tales of suffering and loss branded into our memories that we will likely never be able to forget.

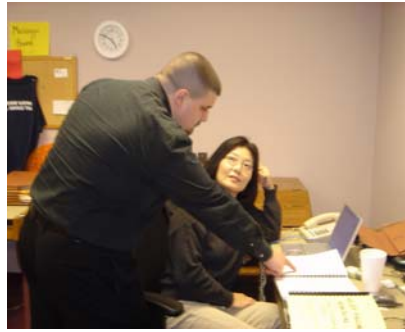
By Katherine Knorr

Newsletter Staff

Rebecca deMahy
Editor

Cheryl Buchert
Ramona Fernandez
Coordinators

Jeff Goldman
Quote Coordinator



Professor Hiroko Kusudo assists student Matt Joseph with an immigration appellate brief

Yearning To Be Free By Hiroko Kusuda

Hiroko Kusuda and her students are providing advice on a variety of immigration law related issues including the replacement of lost or damaged immigration documents, non-citizen's eligibility for hurricane related benefits and contacting appropriate immigration offices affected by the hurricanes. Kusuda and her students are also drafting appeal briefs for indigent non-citizens who are in the custody of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. ■

Back In The Bowl By Professor Bill Quigley

Four Loyola Law Clinic faculty members stayed back in Louisiana to deal with homelessness, criminal defense, and help the Louisiana State Bar set up, train and staff a statewide hotline. Many homeless never left, some have returned, and we have many new homeless. Our clients were scattered into jails across the state and local judges have asked us to join with the many others who are working to untangle the mess that can only be called the criminal system.

We have also partnered with numerous national, regional and local groups trying to respond to the consequences of the disaster and the challenge of rebuilding our community. ■



For up-to-the-minute
information on the status of
New Orleans

www.justiceforneworleans.org

Loyola University New Orleans
School of Law — Law Clinic
7214 St. Charles Ave.
Campus Box 902
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Phone: 504-861-5590
Fax: 504-861-5440

We're on the web:

<http://law.loyno.edu/clinic>



From left to right: Bill Quigley, Taciana Williams, Jeff Goldman, Hiroko Kusuda, Mary Barket, Cheryl Buchert, Ramona Fernandez and Matt Joseph

The Law Clinic is a fully functioning legal clinic which allows third year law students the opportunity to represent indigent clients under the supervision of experienced attorneys. By participating in the law clinic, student practitioners not only have the chance to experience firsthand what representing clients is like, but they also have an opportunity to further the Jesuit ideals of scholarship and service at Loyola by providing legal representation to the needy.

The Loyola Law Clinic is designed to complement and build upon the first two years of traditional legal education. One of the ideas behind the clinic is that students learn most effectively by participating in their own education. Clinic students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of experiences including interviewing, counseling, research and writing, drafting pleadings and appeals, negotiating, mediating, arguing before judges and juries and appearing in court to examine and cross-examine witnesses.

Many students find the clinic to be the most invigorating and the most challenging part of their legal education. For most clinic students, time spent representing people who need help is a time when learning comes alive.

Students are admitted to the Law Clinic on a first come, first served basis. Every February, signs are posted and memos are sent out to all second year law students calling for those interested in joining the Law Clinic to apply. Students must participate in the clinic for at least two semesters. Students must also attend an orientation course in order to learn clinic office procedures, be sworn in, and receive their cases.